



NEWSLETTER of the Wisconsin Entomological Society

Volume 3 Number 2

James W. Mertins, Editor

May, 1975

EDITOR'S NOTES

The article on "Winter Collecting" by Bill Phillipsen in the last issue of the NEWSLETTER (vol. 3, no. 1) seems to have stirred some controversy. The Editor must take full responsibility for not clarifying the projected purpose of the collecting trip which Bill described.

Some of our members, perhaps rightfully, got the impression that the aim of the expedition was to collect every cocoon in sight, and thereby endanger the continued existence of the promethea in the area. I would make two points in this regard; First, by way of clarification, the major purpose of the collection was to obtain material for observation of the natural mortality factors affecting populations of the promethea moth. This was unfortunately not stated in the article. Dissections have been made of a number of the unsound cocoons to examine their contents, and photographs have been made of signs of bird predation. The remaining sound cocoons are being held in refrigeration until they can be incubated to produce adults in synchrony with those in nature. After the emerging adults are fully mature and air-worthy, the majority of them will be released. As stated, a few will be retained for mounting purposes. In addition to the adult moths, however, we hope to obtain a variety of parasitic insects from the cocoons to further our knowledge of the naturally occurring mortality factors affecting promethea.

The second point I would make is that I feel it is highly unlikely that collecting cocoons as we did could have any significant effect on the survival of the population of promethea in the collected area. We did not collect every cocoon we saw, and we did not collect over a large area exhaustively. We do not encourage wholesale greedy collecting, but at the same time we feel it will not harm the overall survival of a common species like promethea to harvest even a few dozen cocoons. I think that most of our members will agree that the major enemy of our wild flora and fauna (insects included) is not overcollecting, but rather habitat destruction. Especially in times such as these, when expanding human populations spread subdivisions across the rural landscape, and food shortages cause farmers to put every available acre under the plow, the favored habitats of our moths and butterflies are increasingly threatened. Brushy fencerows are cleared in favor of narrow field margins subtended by a single strand of barbed wire; weedy meadows and lowlands are bulldozed, drained or filled to become marginal cropland or somebody's backyard. In short, not only is the current generation of prometheas (for example) removed, but

The NEWSLETTER of the Wisconsin Entomological Society is published two to four times yearly at irregular intervals. Please send all news, notes, contributions and other items for the NEWSLETTER to the Editor, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

EDITOR'S NOTES (cont.)

the future possibility of their ever replentishing their decimated number in the area is destroyed along with their foodplants. This is the real danger to the survival of our insect and wildlife heritage.

I hope that this will set the record straight in regard to winter collecting. If nothing else, the article proved to the Editor that someone out there is reading the NEWSLETTER. Written comments, criticisms, or additions to the preceding, or anything else for publication in the NEWSLETTER are always welcome.

NOTICES

Wanted. Records for all Wisconsin Aegeriidae (clear-winged moths) with information on county, host-plant, etc. if possible. Will accept any specimens you don't want, or have some lesser peach tree borers (male and female), Synanthedon pictipes, for trade. Clyde S. Gorsuch, Dept. of Entomology, Univ. of Wis., Madison, WI 53706.

For sale. Very large selection of foreign exotic insects, especially butterflies, moths, and beetles. Many large showy species. I have taken over the business of the late Mr. George Schirmer and will welcome any inquiries or correspondence. I will also consider trades for certain species. Please contact Dan Capps, 231 Powers Ave., Madison, WI 53714 (tel. 249-7271 evenings).

Wanted to trade. Native or exotic foreign beetles; have numerous perfect mounted Catocala moths (mostly duplicates) for exchange. John Hempel, 1602 N. Concord Dr., Janesville, Wis. 53545.

Wanted. Records by county for all Wisconsin Rhopalocera, Sphingidae, Saturniidae, and Catocala. For more details write Roger Kuehn, 5042 N. 61 St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53218.

Wanted. Cockroaches, any species, but especially non-domestic one; live or preserved in alcohol. If possible, location and habitat data on specimens would be greatly appreciated. Ralph Howard, Dept. of Entomol., University of Wisconsin, Madison 53706.

Wanted. Confirmable reports or specimens from termite infestations within Wisconsin. Please contact Glenn Esenthaler, U.S. Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, with any information you may have.

Wanted. Pseudoscorpions - live or preserved in alcohol. Any species. Will accept any specimens you don't want, or have house pseudoscorpion, Chelifer cancroides, for trade. Jim Mertins, Dept. of Entomology. University of Wisconsin, Madison 53706.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

(Please submit items of interest for this column to the Editor.)

According to the Milwaukee Journal for Sunday, April 27, 1975, Walter Scott, WES member and Special Assistant to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary L. P. Voight, was named the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation "Conservationist of the Year" in Stevens Point at the Federation's annual awards dinner. Congratulations!

NEWS OF MEMBERS (cont.)

Bill Phillipsen, currently serving on the WES Executive Council and Publications Committee, completed the requirements for the Ph.D. in entomology at UW - Madison on May 8. Congratulations Dr. Phillipsen!

Dave DeSwarte, Secretary of WES and President of the affiliated Milwaukee Entomological Society, has taken the position of Assistant Curator of Invertebrate Zoology at the Milwaukee Public Museum since the last issue of the NEWSLETTER.

In mid-April Dr. Wendell Burkholder attended an international conference on controlling insect behavior in Bellagio, Italy. He addressed the group on his work with dermestid pheromones, and followed this by a week's stay in Egypt observing stored products pest problems.

Dr. Glenn Esenther spent ten days at the end of February on Sand Island, Midway Atoll, installing a bait-block control experiment against the Formosan termite infestation there. Several other entomologists and nine seabees helped Glenn install 150,000 bait blocks in the portions of the island not covered by concrete.

Rudy Tarumingkeng, UW entomology graduate student from Indonesia, finished the requirements for the Ph.D. in mid-February, and shortly thereafter returned to Djakarta with his family. Congratulations Dr. Tarumingkeng!

We regret to announce the death of Professor Alvin Throne, charter member of both WES and MES, the middle of last month. Prof. Throne was active in both organizations, presenting programs to each, and serving repeatedly as an officer of MES.

We must also note the recent passing of Prof. Gerald Thorne, who last year presented a well-received program on insect-nematode relationships to WES.

New Members

(Addresses appear in the membership list appearing elsewhere in this issue - names preceded by an asterisk are affiliating through MES.)

George Balogh
Mary Krause
* Paul M. Michel
* Daniel Nelson
David L. Radke

* Naomi Siler
* Tim Siler
Anna Threlfall
* Robert Topczewski

Change of Address
(New addresses in membership list)

John Masters

Charles M. Saum

Member Résumés

George Balogh is a student in Milwaukee whose interests lie in collecting, life history and biology of Lepidoptera.

Mary Krause is a Scientific Assistant in entomology at the Milwaukee Public Museum interested in urban entomology, aquatic insects, and general insect ecology, but especially Trichoptera.

Member Résumés (cont.)

David Radke is a lab engineer from Oconomowoc interested in collecting, life history and biology of all the insect groups, but favors the aquatic families.

Anna Threlfall joins her mother as a member of WES, and is a UW-Madison student interested in life history, biology, and pest control.

Robert Topczewski is currently Treasurer of MES.

HISTORY OF WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGY - VI

The first five installments of this series have dealt primarily with the development of entomology in the southeastern corner of the State, and were based in large part on information provided by Ken MacArthur. The earliest documented entomological activities in Wisconsin took place in the Racine-Milwaukee area, but shortly thereafter, some things began to happen elsewhere, especially in Madison. In this, and for several succeeding installments, we will examine the progress of entomology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, beginning with entomological activities prior to the formation of an official entomology department. The Editor is indebted to Emeritus Professor T. C. Allen, former Chairman of the UW Entomology Department, and the late Lutz Bayer for assembling most of the information upon which these paragraphs are based.

In June, 1881, William Arnon Henry was brought to Wisconsin from Cornell University and appointed Professor of Agriculture and Botany. The first research appropriation of \$4000.00 for agriculture was also made in that year. The year 1883 saw the organization of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station, approximately seven years after the first such installation was organized in Connecticut. Prof. Henry was one of three staff members, and in 1886, became Station Director. Three years later he was also appointed Dean, and he retained the titles until 1907 when he was succeeded by Harry L. Russell.

The first entomological publication of the Wisconsin Ag Exp. Sta. appeared in 1893 as Bulletin 35, "Insects and diseases injurious to cranberries", by E. S. Goff. Mr. Goff had come to Wisconsin in 1889 to head the Department of Horticulture. By 1903, the State legislature had appropriated \$2500.00 per year for two years to develop the cranberry industry, and in 1908, another experiment station bulletin appeared on the subject, No. 159, "The cranberry insects of Wisconsin", by C. B. Hardenberg, a native of Holland who later went on to South Africa. In the interim, Mr. Goff had been succeeded as head of the horticulture department by E. P. Sandsten in 1902. Sandsten authored the second entomological bulletin of the experiment station in 1904, No. 110, "Spraying fruit trees with a note on common insects and fungus diseases infesting orchards". Three other station bulletins dealing with insects appeared before 1909, including two on fruit pests and one on potato beetle.

Before the formation of an entomology department in 1909, the subject was taught in both the College of Agriculture and School of Letters and Science, Department of Zoology. The first course was listed in the 1898-99 catalog as Zoology 9, "Entomology, a general course in anatomy, embryology and classification of insects with special attention to forms of economic importance." Assistant Professor William S. Marshall was listed as instructor, but the course was not taught until 1906. Prof. Marshall continued to teach this course (as Zoology 110) until his retirement in 1936. Marshall also taught a 3 credit survey course for L & S students and a 2 credit course, Zoology 112, "Insects and Man", for pre-med students. In the College of Agriculture the first course was listed in 1903-04, and taught the next year and for a short time thereafter as Horticulture 5, "Economic Entomology", by E. P. Sandsten. The course was

HISTORY OF WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGY (cont.)

described as a "brief study of injurious insects and methods of controlling them." A second course, Horticulture 20, "Economic Entomology", was aimed toward graduate students, and was taught by Sandsten until 1908. It specialized in life history studies of insects injurious to horticultural and agricultural crops and use of insecticides.

WISCONSIN INSECT NOTES

A couple of items of potential interest to our members have crossed the Editor's desk in recent weeks as follows:

According to the Federal Register 40 (55):12691 for March 20, 1975, the Department of the Interior is reviewing the status of 42 species and subspecies of butterflies to determine whether they should be proposed for listing as either endangered or threatened species. As far as I know, this would be the first time such a listing would occur. None of those listed are identified as specifically from Wisconsin, but several are mentioned from adjacent states. Comments on the subject are invited before June 18, 1975, to: Director Lynn A. Greenwalt, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Paul Villiard's well-illustrated book, "Moths and how to rear them", has been reprinted by Dover Press. The unabridged 242 page republication of the original (1969) edition is paperbound and costs \$5.00. The Editor's copy is very nice indeed, with 328 illustrations and information on rearing 88 species from around the world, including those found here in Wisconsin.

WES member, John H. Masters, has recently (1974) collaborated with W. D. Field and C. F. dos Passos to produce "A bibliography of the catalogs, lists, faunal and other papers on the butterflies of North America north of Mexico arranged by state and province". The bibliography, published as Smithsonian Contributions in Zoology #157, is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402, for \$1.70. It includes a list of some 35 publications pertinent to the butterflies of Wisconsin, 1883 to 1973.

MEMBERSHIP LIST OF WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

May, 1975

Several requests recently in regard to the membership composition of WES have prompted publication of the following list. It is two years since the last such list was published (NEWSLETTER vol. 1, no. 2) and a considerable number of changes have occurred, warranting this update. New members will benefit by knowing the names of others with similar interests, some of whom may even be their own neighbors (and closet entomologists). As in the previous list, names preceded by an asterisk are charter members of WES.

Analysis: We have 89 members in good standing, including 1 institutional member, a net increase of 9 since the 1973 list. Seventy-four members reside in Wisconsin, while the others live in California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, New Jersey, and in Ontario, Canada, Costa Rica, and Indonesia. Of the Wisconsin members, 44 live in the Madison area and 12 in the Milwaukee area; 19 of the Madison residents are affiliated with the UW Department of Entomology.

MEMBERSHIP LIST (cont.)

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Is everybody listed correctly in name and address? Corrections of any sort would be appreciated by the Editor.

WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print:

Last Name	First Name			
Address:	Street	City	State	Zip
Organization represented (if any)				
Title or Occupation				
Phone: (Include area code)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual membership (\$2.00 per year)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization membership (\$10.00 per year)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining membership (\$25.00 or more per year)				

General Interest Area

Aquatic Insects Collecting and/or Taxonomy
 4-H or Scout Member Insect Photography
 Extension Worker Physiology
 Life History, Biology, & Behavior Apiculture
 Other _____ Pest Control
 _____ Specify

Specific Interests (Order, Family, Genus) _____

If you are an authority for certain insect taxa, would you be willing to identify Wisconsin specimens for members? Yes No *****

Make checks payable to Wisconsin Entomological Society and mail to the Treasurer, William Hilsenhoff, Dept. of Entomology, 237 Russell Lab., U. Wis., Madison, Wisc. 53706.